

Message Text

PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00939 201928Z

46

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 AID-05 OMB-01 SCS-03

SCA-01 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /097 W

----- 068629

P R 201436Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4925

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

S E C R E T MAPUTO 0939

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGEN, EGEN, SGEN,MZ

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE ASSESSMENT (7); U.S. -MOZAMBIQUE RELATIONS

REF: MAPUTO 886

1. SUMMARY: U.S. MOEAMBIQUE RELATIONS ARE IN WHAT MIGHT BE CALLED A "FEELING OUT" STATE. MACHEL STILL QUESTIONS U.S. MOTIVES AND APPEARS TO BE UNCERTAIN OF HOW CLOSE A RELATIONSHIP HE WANTS (OR WANTS TO BE SEEN TO HAVE) WITH US. MACHEL'S STRONG ANTI-WESTERN AND PRO-COMMUNIST BIAS AND THE CONTINUED DETENTION OF AMERICAN MISSIONARY ARMAND DOLL, IN TURN, GIVE US CAUSE FOR CONCERN. FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS, WE EXPECT MOZAMBIQUE TO CONTINUE TO BE ONE OF OUR HARSHTEST CRTICS. ANY IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS IS LIKELY TO BE SLOW AT BEST. END SUMMARY

SECRET

PAGE 02 MAPUTO 00939 201928Z

2. THE U.S. AND MOZAMBIQUE GOT OFF TO A SLOW START IN ESTABLISHING RELATIONS. AFTER BEING ORDERED TO CLOSE OUR CONSULATE AND TO CEASE OPERATIONS ON INDEPENDENCE DAY, JUNE 25, 1975, IT WAS NOT UNTIL

SEPTEMBER THAT WE ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS;
NOVEMBER THAT WE OPENED OUR EMBASSY; AND APRIL THAT
THE AMBASSADOR PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS.

3. SOME OF THE DELAY WAS SIMPLY THE RESULT OF
BUREAUCRATIC INEXPERIENCE AND INEPTITUDE. BUT THERE
WERE POLITICAL REASONS AS WELL. FROM A NUMBER OF
SOURCES WE HAVE LEARNED THAT FRELIMO LEADERS WERE
UNHAPPY WITH U.S. POLICY DURING THEIR LIBERATION
STRUGGLE, AND THAT THEY SOUGHT TO EXPRESS THEIR
DISPLEASURE BY MAKING US WAIT. NO DOUBT, THERE WAS
ALSO SOME UNEASINESS AND UNCERTAINTY ABOUT ENTERING
INTO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH A GOVERNMENT THAT IS
PERCEIVED BY THEM TO BE THE CHAMPION OF CAPITALISM,
PEKCBXALISM AND CEO-COLONIALISM, TO WHICH FRELIMO
LEADERS ARE SO IDEOLOGICALLY OPPOSED.

4. BUT A BEGINNING HAS BEEN MADE. IN THE FIVE
MONTHS SINCE THE AMBASSADOR PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS,
THERE HAVE BEEN THREE MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT MACHEL
ONE (APRIL 20) WITH SENATOR PERCY, LARGELY ON SOUTHERN
AFRICA: A SECOND (APRIL 24) AT THE REQUEST OF PRESI-
DENT MACHEL, AT WHICH U.S. AID TO MOZAMBIQUE AND U.S.
AFRICAN POLICY WERE REVIEWED; AND A THIRD (AUGUST 14),
AGAIN AT THE REQUEST OF THE PRESIDENT, APPARENTLY
CALLED TO IMPRESS UPON US THE SERIOUSNESS OF CONTINUED
RHODESIAN RAIDS INTO MOZAMBIQUE. WHILE IT WOULD BE
PREMATURE TO MAKE TOO MUCH OF THESE MEETINGS, MACHEL'S
ACCESSIBILITY AND HIS CANDOR (ON SOME SUBJECTS)
SUGGESTS TO US THAT MACHEL CONSIDERS U.S. PRESENCE
IN MOZAMBIQUE AS SOMETHING MORE THAN SIMPLY NON-
ALIGNED WINDOW-DRESSING.

5. THE AID TALKS WHICH WERE INITIATED IN LATE MAY
WENT WELL, WITH VICE PRESIDENT OF RELIMO, MARCELINO
DOS SANTOS. REMARKING--RATHER SIGNIFICANTLY WE BE-
SECRET

PAGE 03 MAPUTO 00939 201928Z

LIVE--THAT THE PARTY HAD REACHED A STATE IN ITS
HISTORY WHICH PERMITS IT TO ENTER INTO A BILATERAL
AID RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES. THE MO-
ZAMBICANS APPRECIATED THE GENEROSITY OF THE OFFER
AND THE FLEXIBILITY OF OUR NEGOTIATING POSURE. WE
WERE PLEASED THAT THE MOZAMBIKAN NEGOTIATORS WERE
READY TO ACCOMMODATE TO OUR LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS.

6 DESPITE THESE MILDLY ENCOURAGING BEGINNNINGS,
THE OVERALL ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH WE CONDUCT OUR RE-
LATIONS HERE IN MAPUTO REMAINS ONE OF GREAT SUSPICION
AND SOME DPSTANCE. OUR ATTEMPTS, FOR EXAMPLE, TO
ARRANGE A MEETING FOR GOVERNOR SCRANTON WITH PRESI-
DENT MACHEL PROVED UNSUCCESSFUL, EVEN THOUGH MACHEL

WAS IN THE VICINITY OF MAPUTO AND COULD HAVE RECEIVED THE GOVERNOR HAD HE WANTED TO. ALSO, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS NOT GONE OUT OF ITS WAY TO BE HELPFUL IN OUR ALMOST DAILY DEALINGS WITH IT.

7. THE THE PARTY IDEOLOGUES, THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM (AND ITS PRIME EXPONENT, THE UNITED STATES) REMAINS THE MAJOR OBSTACLE TO THE LIBERATION OF OPPRESSED PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD. THERE HAS BEEN NO LET-UP IN THE ANTI-AMERICAN (AND PRO-COMMUNIST) BIAS IN THE GOVERNMENT-DIRECTED MEDIA. THUS FAR PRESIDENT MACHEL HAS NOT RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO EFFORTS WE HAVE MADE TO ENTER INTO A DIALOGUE WITH HIM ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN MATTERS. TO A GOVERNMENT THAT IS PREDISPOSED TO THINK THE WORST ABOUT THE UNITED STATES, THE CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO MOZAMBIQUE, AND THE TEMPORARY HOLD PLACED ON OUR DOLLAR GRANT AID OFFER, HAVE GIVEN THE GOVERNMENT MORE CAUSE TO KEEP ITS DISTANCE FROM US.

8. IF THE GPRM IS ADOPTING A "WAIT AND SEE" POSUTURE, SO TOO ARE WE. SO LONG AS THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO DETAIN WITHOUT CHARGES AMERICAN MISSIONARY ARMAND DOLL THERE IS A LIMIT TO HOW FAR WE CAN OR WILL WANT TO GO IN SEEKING TO ESTABLISH CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT
SECRET

PAGE 04 MAPUTO 00939 201928Z

ACTION IN THE CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO AID TO MOZAMBIQUE INDICATES THAT AT LEAST SOME IN CONGRESS THINK THAT WE SHOULD MAKE NO ATTEMPT WHATSOEVER TO DEVELOP CLOSER RELATIONS WITH THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT. UNTIL WE KNOW MORE ABOUT MACHEL AND THE EXTEND OF HIS COMMITMENT TO A RADICAL COURSE IN MOZWMBIQUE AND SOUTHERN AFRICA, IT WOULD SEEM TO MAKE GOOD SENSE TO ADOPT A POSTURE THAT WILL PERMIT US TO DISENGAGE RAPIDLY AND WITH A MINIMUM OF COMPLICATIONS SHOULD DEVELOPMENTS TAKE A TURN NOT TO OUR LIKING.

9. GIVEN FRELIMO'S UNHAPPINESS WITH OUR PAST POLICIES, ITS STROMG IDEOLOGICAL AFFINITY WITH ITS SOCIALIST AND NON-ALIGNED RADICAL FRIENDS, AND ITS WILLINGNESS AND DETERMINATION TO USE FORCE TO BRING LIBERATION AND REVOLUTION TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN ANY IMPORVEMENT IN U.S. -MOZAMBIQUE RELATIONS WILL BE SLOW AT BEST. FOR SOME TIME TO COME WE EXPECT THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT WLL REMAIN A HARSH CRITIC AND OPPONENT OF U.S. POLICIES. SHOULD DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHER AFRICAN NOT GO AS MACHE WOULD LIKE, THERE IS ALWAYS THE POSSIBLILITY THAT HE MAY CHOOSE NOT TO HAVE ANYTHING AT ALL TO DO

WITH US, AND IDENTIFY HIMSELF AND MOZAMBIQUE EVEN
MORE OPENLY AND CLOSELY WITH HIS "NATURAL ALLIES",
THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES.
DE PREE

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 15 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PGEN, CAT-C, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, BORDER INCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MAPUTO00939
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: N760006-0384
From: MAPUTO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197608103/baaaesst.tel
Line Count: 169
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <30 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOZAMBIQUE ASSESSMENT (7); U.S. -MOZAMBIQUE RELATIONS
TAGS: EGEN, SGEN, PFOR, MZ, RH, US, (FORD, GERALD R), (MACHEL, SAMORA)
To: STATE INFO DAR ES SALAAM
GABORONE
LISBON
LONDON
LUSAKA

PRETORIA
LILONGWE
MBABANE
NAIROBI

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006